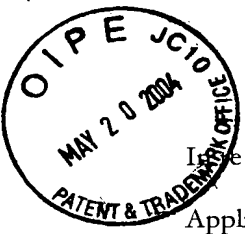


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Efw



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of **Whitman**
Application No. **09/836,781**
Attorney Docket No. **3556-P03147US0**
Filed: **April 17, 2001**
For: **Electro-Mechanical Surgical Device**
Examiner: **Tran, Louis B.**
Group Art Unit: **3721**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being deposited on the date identified below with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope properly addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

5/18/04
Date of Certificate

Robin L. Dolan
Robin L. Dolan

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the references listed thereon. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of an RCE. Accordingly no fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent that issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By Donald R. Piper, Jr.
Donald R. Piper, Jr.
PTO Registration No. 29,337

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Enclosures - Form PTO-1449
Copies of references listed on PTO - 1449

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**



Complete if known

Application Number: 09/836,781

Filing Date: April 17, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

SHEET 1 OF 2

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US0

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EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
		3,252,643	05/1966	Stekkopytov, et al.
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EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**



Complete if known

Application Number: 09/836,781

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Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

SHEET 2 OF 2

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147USO

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		0,634,144	EP	07/14/1994	ETHICON, INC.
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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.